



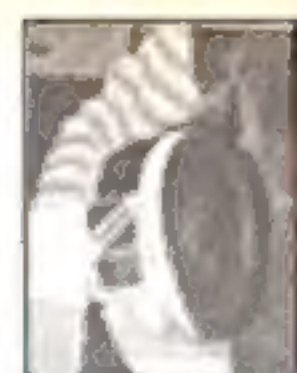
Staffer follows two security guards for a day, News



Shakente, students assess first semester, Opinion



Best and worst high school bathrooms, CP



Fencing coach William Reith rarely is foiled, Sports

Intruders, student assault peer during school

• Arrested students return for second attempt

BY KYAN SAFARI
NEWS EDITOR

In spite of the arrests of two Cleveland Public School students for the assault of a Shaker freshman in the high school Jan. 8, Principal Michael Griffith will not require students to show Shaker IDs upon entering school.

"I don't support the use of IDs as a coercive identification," he said. "That could create a negative environment."

A Shaker sophomore brought two girls from East and South High schools to the building Jan. 8 in order to beat up a Shaker freshman. Security staff broke up the fight, but not before the freshman was hit in the face and chest and history teacher Terry Pollack was struck in the face while trying to intervene, according to the incident report filed by the Shaker

NARRATIVE •
A day in the life of a security guard • page 2

Heights Police.

Four days later the three assailants, who live together in a foster home, entered the building and made another attempt to beat up the freshman immediately after school, but their plan was foiled when the security staff intercepted them. The three girls have been charged with assault. The two Cleveland Public School students were also charged with criminal trespassing. As for the

SEE FIGHT, PAGE 2



Griffith

Wooster BOE stifles student newspaper

BY ALEX BUDER SHAPIRO
NEWS EDITOR

Students at Wooster High School may be promised an "unfettered student press" by the school board's Student Publication Rights document, but editors at The Wooster Blade found that some promises are not always kept.

"I feel that our right to publish information that we deem accurate at the time of publication has been violated."

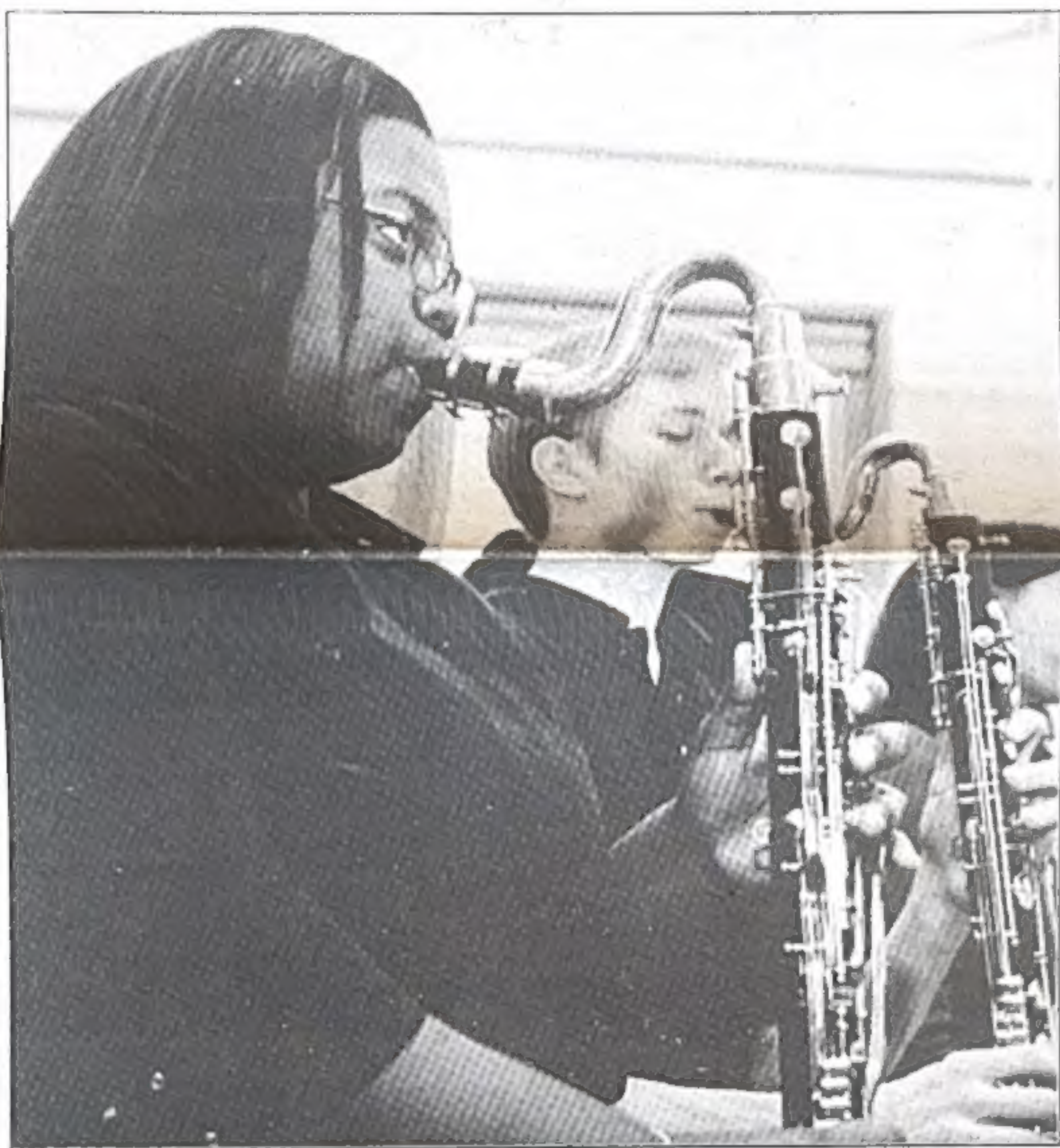
Mitch Johnson
Wooster Blade
opinion editor

Wooster school officials withheld the December edition of the Blade after deciding that an article about reduced consequences for athletes caught drinking was potentially libelous. Wooster editors have speculated that the confiscation was related to quotes in the article from the daughter of a school board member, who was allegedly one of the drinking athletes.

"I feel that our right to publish information that we deem accurate at the time of publication has been violated," said Mitch Johnson, an opinion/editorial editor at the Blade. Wooster has a school board policy of open forum, which prohibits prior

SEE WOOSTER, PAGE 2

OVERTURE TO A NEW YEAR



Brian Gamm • THE SHAKERITE

BASS CLARINETISTS ERIN Neal and Tom Wilson rehearse their new Wind Ensemble repertoire during first period Dec. 18. "I really like the opening of Symphonic Overture," said senior Elissa Courtright, an alto saxophone player in the ensemble for the last two years. The band's next concert is March 4.

Don't bank on a snow day

• Closing school 'casually' is not a district policy

BY WILL WEMER
FEATURE EDITOR

Islamic School of the Oasis . . . Ravenna City Schools, Revere Local Schools, Salem Local Schools, Seven Hills City Schools . . . Solon City Schools . . . Damn!

Shaker, the 7-Eleven of public education, is always open. Even when the snow is a foot deep and the wind chill is minus a billion.

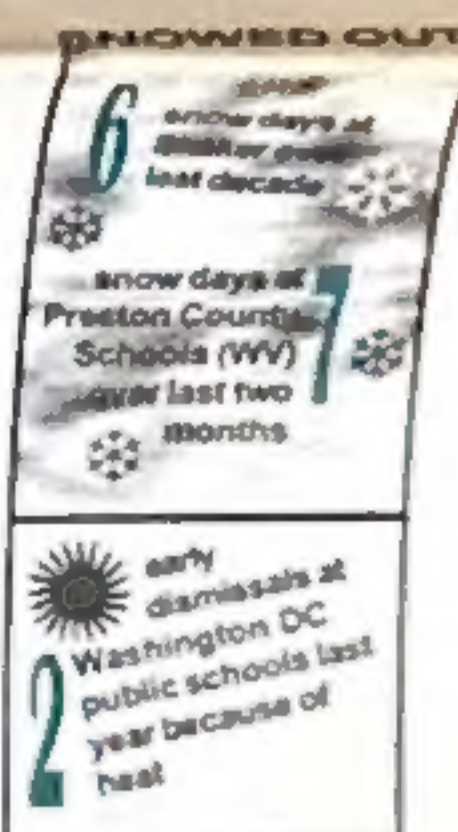
Every Shaker student knows the pain of holding vigil in front of the TV as Cleveland's local news stations compete to break the good news, only to realize yet again that Shaker rarely closes for snow. On Jan. 27, NewsChannel 5 had 180 reported snow days. But was one of those Shaker? Take a lucky guess.

It's a fact. Shaker calls substantially fewer snow days than other area schools. Director of Communications Peggy Caldwell quickly exclaimed "What snow days?" when asked about weather cancellations. She added that school has closed only about half a dozen times for snow in the last decade, and that calling snow days is not a policy of the school district.

"The overall philosophy of the district is that we don't call off school casually," Caldwell said. "School is extremely important. It's the job of students. If adults are expected to get to their job, students are expected to get to their job."

Shaker will close schools if the city's streets cannot be adequately plowed in time for travel. This accounted for three snow days in 1996, when a snowstorm dumped more than four feet of snow on the eastern suburbs. In 1999, school was closed

SEE SNOW, PAGE 6



Hand-to-hand doesn't always mean combat



Sarah Wang • THE SHAKERITE

FRESHMEN SYLVIA ARELLANO and Donald Aaron demonstrate the handshake they created.

• Time honored gesture of good will takes on a new twist

BY EMILY OZAN
A&E EDITOR

Freshmen Sylvia Arellano and Donald Aaron see each other in the cafeteria during sixth period lunch and immediately they touch each of their fingers on their right hands together, snap their fingers and then grab each other's hands and point.

This elaborate ritual takes the place of a simple "Hello," and it's just one example of

TRY IT OUT •
Learn two multistep handshakes • page 6

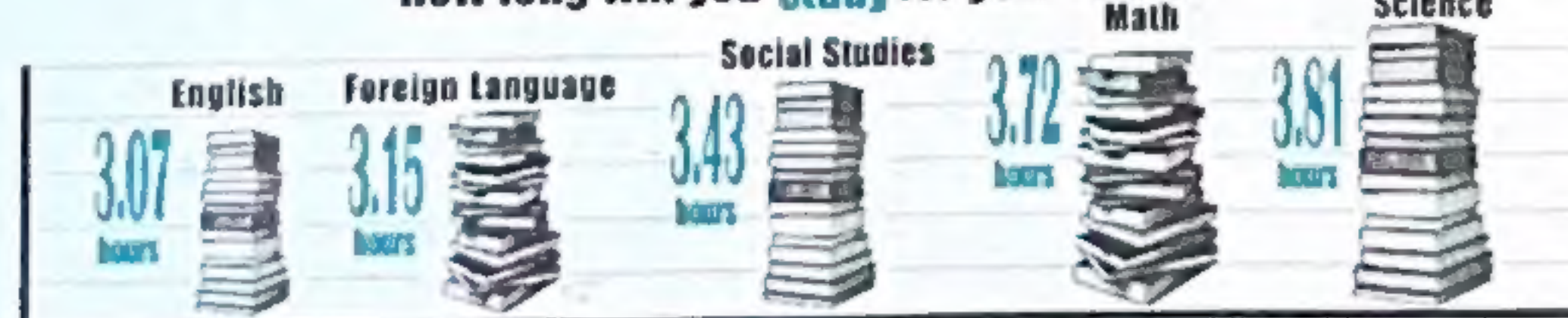
students' creative handshakes.

Aaron and Arellano created this four-step handshake last November. "It's like a best friend handshake. Only we know it," Aaron said.

The handshake was once a simple ges-

SEE HANDSHAKE, PAGE 6

How long will you study for your finals?



Would you like to have finals before winter break?



Scientific poll of 100 students with a margin of error of +/-10 percent. Journalism I, Grubbs and Shakerite classes telephoned students prior to final exams.

On the Line

the
News
DeskSchool will still
sponsor dances

• Although there have been at least two incidents in which paramedics have had to treat drunk students at dances this year ("Three incidents mar dance" - Dec 19 and "Dancing with drunks at Shaker" - Oct 25), Principal Michael Griffith said that the school will still sponsor student dances, despite rumors to the contrary. "I have no desire to eliminate dances from the calendar," he said. Griffith added that the school will continue to sell tickets to dances only in advance and will not allow students to enter after a set time. No new safety measures will be taken.

District scores
improve

• The Shaker schools met 19 of 22 state standards last year, three more than in 2001. The standards measure proficiency test scores, graduation rates and student attendance. Shaker met all ninth-grade standards. "It's a minimum proficiency assessment. While we recognize its importance it does not drive our curriculum," Principal Michael Griffith said.

Students can
charge lunch
purchases to ID
cards

• Students can now charge cafeteria lunch purchases to their student ID cards. In a letter to all parents, Food Service Supervisor Cindy Gorfido said that the new program, Café Terminal, will speed up cafeteria lines. Parents can place money in their children's accounts by writing a check to the Shaker Heights City Schools Food Service. Café Terminal has been used at Woodbury School since September. ("An order of fries, charge it please" - Nov 22)

Joseph Tartakoff

Security handles locks, loiterers and lunch squabbles
• Staff reporter follows security guardBy EMILY GRANNIS
STAFF REPORTER

Security guard Joe Freeman has a simple message for the mob shuffling past the library door before first period.

"Let's keep moving, people!" he yells as I join him, embarking on a day of shadowing Shaker security.

After the bell rings and the halls empty, Freeman sets off through his assigned sections of the basement and first floor in search of open locks. By looking straight down the rows of lockers, he can easily spot a hanging lock. Freeman turns each loose one backwards as a warning to forgetful students.

Freeman uses the remaining time during first period to roam his area of the halls near the library and in the basement, checking for loitering students who need prompting to get to class. As a retired postmaster, Freeman said he likes working at Shaker because it's a change of pace.

"I've been there, done that, and I'm more laid back. I try my best not to get emotional but some days it's hard," he said. "My biggest success is in knowing that when you deal with kids they'll be kids. I treat

Day
in a
Life

them as such. I let them know that I know they did something but it's not that important to report. They acknowledge me and improve."

Just before fourth period, I'm passed off like a football and I continue my day with security by following Victor Ferrell, who is second in command of high school security. Ferrell is posted in the cafeteria during all three lunch periods.

"The whole premise of high school security is prevention. We want to prevent things from happening. We put out little fires to prevent big ones in a sense," Ferrell said.

A fight breaks out between two boys just as Ferrell enters the cafeteria. Sprinting over, he joins fellow security guard Paul Daniels in splitting up the students. While Daniels tucks one under his arm, Ferrell takes the other out the back door and makes a beeline for the nurse.

By the time I catch up with him, Ferrell is washing his hands off in the nurse's office and Daniels is trying to get a bloodstain out of his cream-colored fleece coat. Head of security Mike Klima is looking into who saw the fight and locating witnesses. All of this happens within five minutes of the beginning of the fight. Ferrell partially attributes such problems to the crowds in the lunchroom.

"It's amazing how when the kids have space it brings down the problems the crowd itself escalates

“We put out little fires to prevent big ones in a sense.”

Victor Ferrell
Security guard

Will Bostwick • THE SHAKERITE

SENIOR MARCUS PAYNE and sophomore Reggie Motley chat with security guard Victor Ferrell. Ferrell has been a security guard at Shaker Heights High School for seven years.

things," he said.

Between the lunch periods, Ferrell walks around and monitors hallways.

Finally during ninth period, he re-enters the cafeteria and takes about 10 to 15 minutes total to get and eat his lunch before resuming his hall roaming. This is Ferrell's longest break all day.

As tenth period ends, security's job picks up again. Guards position themselves at every door and at the busiest hallways and staircases to monitor traffic and encourage stu-

dents to either head to conferences with a teacher or go home.

After an entire day of running around the building non-stop, Freeman and Ferrell seem to have just as much energy as at the beginning of the day. For all anyone knows, they've been relaxing all day and not solving the school's troubles.

Although several problems seem to have occurred throughout the day, Ferrell expressed how well behaved the student body is.

"Overall we have a good school," he said. "We really do."

Open forum status compromised
in Wooster student newspaper

FROM WOOSTER, PAGE 1

review of the paper by school officials, and also forbids halting distribution. Because the issue was never distributed, Johnson maintains that the students' rights were ignored.

"It is ludicrous to make governing laws and then not to follow them," Johnson said.

The story in question centered on a group of student athletes who were found drinking at a private party, and received a lighter punishment than the school mandated one. Wooster administrators maintain that the article gave the impression that the school board gave favored treatment to the athletes, and that students receiving disciplinary action cannot have their names published without parental consent.

The students took the argument to court, U.S. District Court Judge Donald Nugent ordered that the controversial sections of the article be eliminated and the paper reprinted. It was distributed Jan. 15. According to Johnson, the reprinted edition included white spaces in lieu of the removed statements and an explanation of the situation.

The Shakerite has a similar open forum policy, outlined in the Students' Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. As stated, students have the "right to free expression of ideas and to participate in the publication of such ideas" as long as no published material causes "a substantial disruption of the educational process."

"The district likes to leave editorial decisions to the editors. It is a 'hands-off' policy," said



• Since 1969, the Supreme Court has restricted student press rights three times. The 1988 Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier decision, which governs student newspapers today, said that administrators cannot censor or withhold school newspapers that are open forums for student expression. The Shakerite is an open forum, as is The Wooster Blade.

Peggy Caldwell, director of communications. "[Superintendent] Freeman feels strongly that student editors can be entrusted to uphold professional journalistic standards. He also feels strongly about unfettered student press, saying that you won't see anything like [the Wooster case] under his watch."

Sophomore Halle Morse would be upset if a scenario like Wooster's occurred at Shaker.

"I don't feel that the school has a right [to censor] unless the newspaper is directly infringing on a student's rights," Morse said.

Two trespassers and police
involved in high school brawl

FROM FIGHTS PAGE 1

Shaker student, she is "no longer part of the school community," according to Assistant Principal Reginald Blue.

Both incidents involved a dispute over a boy, according to District Safety Coordinator Michael Klima.

The first incident occurred near Room 253B between fifth and sixth period. The freshman who was attacked said, "I went to put on my backpack and I felt someone hit me on the head."

Klima believes that although the two trespassers were able to enter the high school, security is not at fault. He noted that the girls, indistinguishable amongst the throngs of students, were escorted in by the Shaker sophomore.

Griffith also does not believe lack of security was to blame. "We need a general knowledge of who is a Shaker student and who is not. A lot of our security is good with vi-

sual recognition. We are working to focus where students and visitors enter after period one," Griffith said.

The high school has recently instituted a system in which all building doors except the main entrance are locked after first period. Although this system was not created because of the fight, it may serve to prevent unwanted visitors from entering the school.

Junior Mark Vieyra would like to see a change in security. "They don't get to places very fast to break up fights. They are so spread out. The school should find a better way to position the security guards so that they concentrate in places like the main hall where there is a lot of commotion."

Will Weiner and Jennifer Broadbent contributed to this story.



Klima



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Shaker Heights Teachers' Association

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Shaker's Youth



Allison Vitkus • THE SHAKERITE



Alcohol policy inconsistent

By BECCA BONTHUIS
AND JEANNE BRIGHT
OPINION EDITOR AND UP FRONT
EDITOR

So, you're drunk and you are heading toward the school dance. Should you:

- (a) go home and risk getting in trouble with your parents
- (b) get sick in the parking lot before you set foot in the dance
- (c) risk it — go inside and throw up doing the percolator.

Well, don't choose letter (c). At the past three dances, drunk people found inside of the dance were suspended. But the administration did not punish those found outside of the building, nor were the police and athletic directors contacted. Punishments made on a "case-by-case basis" seem unclear and inconsistent to students. As the school rulebook states, "student[s] shall not consume any alcoholic beverages at a time before... a school-sponsored or related event or activity where such consumption might affect or impair the student's behavior while traveling to or from school, to or from any school activity, function or event." The rulebook does not include specific punishments, so consequences are left to the administration to decide.

Punishment for violation of this rule should be consistent. Although the administration does not believe in zero tolerance, it is best for the well-being of students. Because parents do not always discipline their own children, the school should implement a set of standard punishments that are made clear to all students. An example is the athletic code of conduct. This policy has defined punishments for first and second offenses of intoxication. One cannot find fault with a punishment if it is clearly defined and is indiscriminate.

Drunk students in and around the school violate the school rule as well as the law. Even if the school chooses not to enforce the rule about being drunk on school property and reserves action only when student enter the school building intoxicated, they should at least contact the police and the athletic directors (if the students in question are athletes).

The school is not above the law. If a faculty member sees a student steal a car off of school property they call the police. Shouldn't they do the same for drunkenness?

SHHS grades improve the Rite Idea

Last June, *The Shakerite* printed a report card grading various aspects of the Shaker Heights School District. This semester, *The Shakerite* polled students in five out of the six categories and averaged the results. The Editorial Board also gave grades and made additional comments.

SHAKER HEIGHTS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT SHAKER HEIGHTS, OHIO HIGH SCHOOL REPORT CARD	STUDENT NO	STUDENT NAME	SCHOOL YEAR
	2162954200	SHAKER HEIGHTS HIGH SCHO	2002-2003

SUBJECT	LAST SEMESTER	STUDENT POLL	SHAKERITE GRADE	COMMENTS
TEACHERS	C+	C+	C	THE MEETING OVERLOAD MAY CAUSE TEACHERS TO FEEL STRESSED, BUT THAT'S NO REASON TO TAKE IT OUT ON EQUALLY STRESSED STUDENTS.
GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT	A-	N/A	A-	MOST COUNSELORS ARE EXTREMELY SUPPORTIVE AND HELPFUL TO THEIR STUDENTS. THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS COULD BE SIMPLIFIED FOR THE CLASS OF 2004, THOUGH.
HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION	B-	C	B	WHILE ADMINISTRATORS COULD WORK MUCH HARDER ON CONSISTENT DISCIPLINE FOR STUDENTS, MICHAEL GRIFFITH CONTINUES TO BE AN APPROACHABLE AND EFFECTIVE PRINCIPAL.
SCHOOL BOARD	C-	C	D+	SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS SHOULD MAKE THEIR PRESENCE KNOWN AT SCHOOL IF THEY ARE STRANGERS TO THE STUDENT BODY THEN THEY CANNOT EFFECTIVELY REPRESENT US.
STUDENT BODY	D+	C-	C	STUDENTS HAVE SHOWN MORE CONTROL AND RESPECT THAN THEY DID AT THE END OF LAST YEAR, THOUGH THEY STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE BECOMING MODEL CITIZENS.
SECURITY	C+	B	D	SECURITY HAS HAD TROUBLE RESPONDING TO INCIDENTS IN A TIMELY MANNER. PERHAPS THAT IS BECAUSE SOME GUARDS SPEND MUCH OF THEIR TIME AND FOCUS CHATTING IT UP WITH STUDENTS.

Scientific poll of 100 students with a margin of error of + / - 10 percent. Journalism I, Gristmill and Shakerite classes telephoned students.

Falsely Alarming 10-Second tick-offs

What kind of idiot thinks that it's cool to pull the fire alarm at 6 PM? With your dumb, unoriginal prank, you wasted untold hours of activities, firefighters', and most importantly, my time.

Rick Jennings

Too cool for school

I know that the administration hates giving us snow days, but isn't it time to think about the children? Personally, I don't want to see kindergarten-sicles lying in the road when I drive to school. When it's the coldest it's been in years, I think we deserve a snow day.

Matt Seidner

The Shakerite

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The Shakerite reserves the right to reject or edit any letter to the editor or advertisement.

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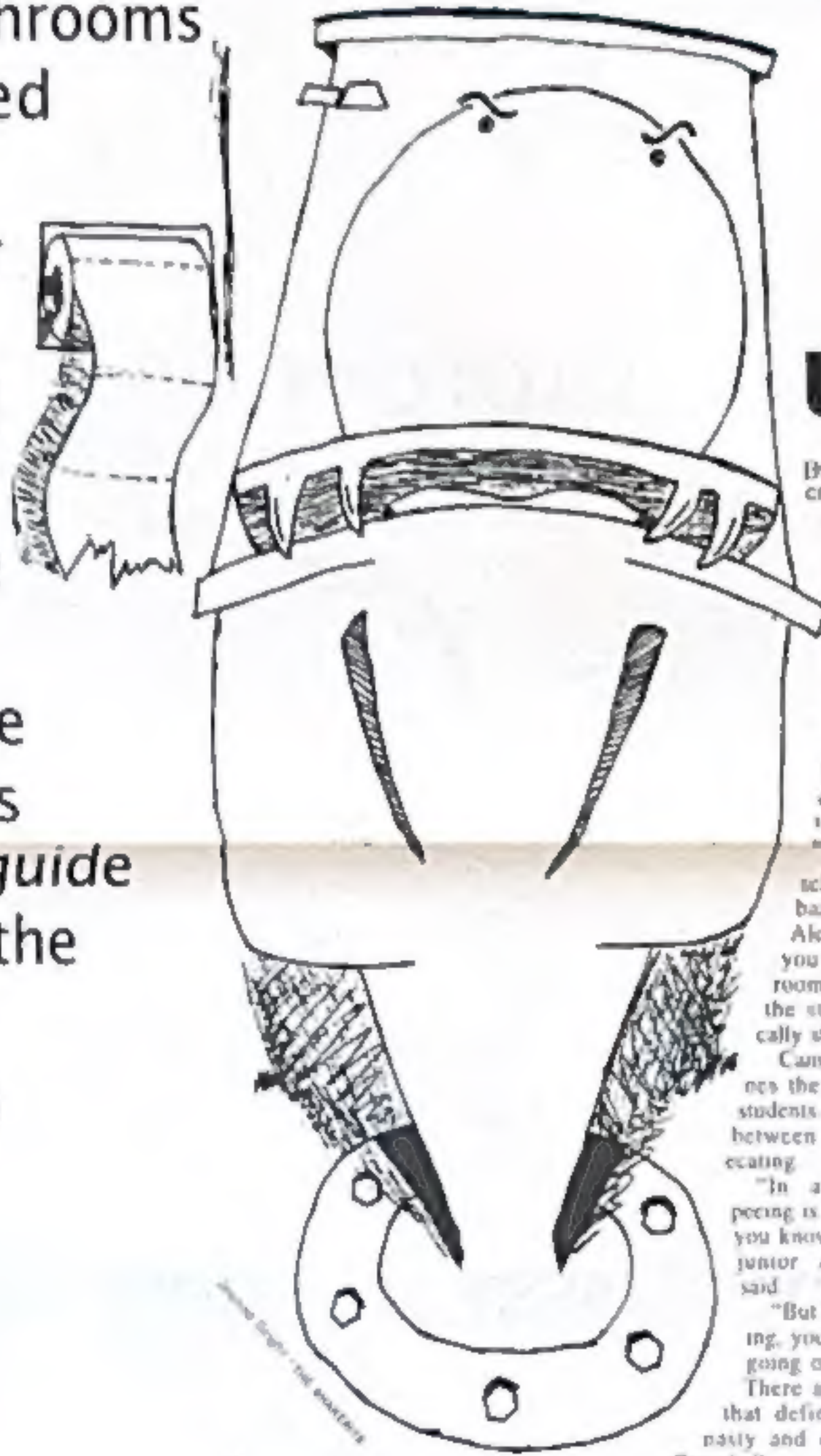
corrections

In the Dec. 19 issue of The Shakerite the date of Eric Russell's death was incorrect. Russell died Dec. 2. The Shakerite regrets the error.

Also in the Dec. 19 issue of The Shakerite, Yosef Testhome was misidentified in a picture. The Shakerite regrets the error.

DOUBLE, DOUBLE TOILET TROUBLE

• Anyone got Lysol?
School bathrooms are feared by many, the site for the latest gossip and one more place to be polite. Centerpiece presents its complete guide for use of the school bathrooms



Uncanny fear of

By DAVID MORGENSTERN
CENTERPIECE EDITOR

Everybody's doing it, but nobody talks about it. Every day, millions of kids across the nation, even in Shaker, lie to their friends, teachers and even parents.

Drugs? Sex? Nope. It's what every student is afraid to admit doing in school: pooping.

"I don't poop in school because it's embarrassing," junior Alex Campbell said. "If you walk into the bathroom and someone is in the stalls, you automatically start laughing."

Campbell's response echoes the feelings of Shaker students. There is a fine line between urination and defecating.

"In a guy's bathroom, peeing is no big thing because you know what is going on," junior Arden McWilliams said.

"But if someone is pooping, you never know what is going on inside of the stall. There are sounds and stuff that definitely make it real nasty and embarrassing," said Campbell.

"If you are in a stall for a really long time, then people will know what you are doing," sophomore Shannon Ashford said. "Then when you come out, people stare at you. It's so embarrassing."

The fear of humiliation can prevent students from using the bathroom entirely. "I'm embarrassed to go to school because that is my own private business and I don't want other people to be a part of it," sophomore Candace Dalton said.

"School settings make a private thing, such as going to the restroom, very public," said Dr. Barbara Fleming, who is the Director of Anxiety Treatment Center in Beachwood.

"This can cause anxiety among students and intimidate them into not using the bathroom," said Fleming.

Fleming expanded upon the causes for humiliation. "Having to ask a teacher permission to go contributes to this," she said. "If a student asks permission from a teacher and they say no, it can be very embarrassing."

Cleanliness also contributes to student's fear of using the bathroom in school. Urban myths about public bathrooms range from contracting lice from a toilet seat to getting pregnant.

"I'm afraid to use public bathrooms and especially school bathrooms when they look gross," Dalton said. "You don't know what is in there."

Potty policies: do's and don't's of bathroom etiquette

• Choosing the right stall and sink are among the critical rules to remember

Why does McDonalds put up signs in its bathrooms requiring all employees to wash their hands before they return to work? Maybe because this basic sanitary practice is not as common as you think.

According to a recent Pirelli study (www.pirelli.com/classroom_who_washes.htm), 130 students from four Pennsylvania schools were observed while practicing their bathroom habits.

Observations were conducted over a four-week period in a variety of school bathrooms. According to the results, 55 percent of female students washed their hands, compared to 48 percent of males.

However, when it came to using soap, females outnumbered the males drastically. Thirty-eight percent of females used soap, while only 8 percent of males did.

According to the International Center for Bathroom

Etiquette, whose mission is to "educate everyone on proper conduct in the bathroom, and in so doing make the bathroom experience more enjoyable for everyone," washing hands is one of the most crucial bathroom practices.

Their website www.icbe.org offers advice for washing hands in public restrooms.

"If the sinks are on the same wall as the urinals, try to choose one that is farthest away from the urinal. Just like someone peeing doesn't want someone else to pee beside him, they also don't want someone to wash their hands beside them."

However, the importance of selecting a urinal in an ideal location tends to be a gender-specific problem.

Unlike girls, boys do not have the luxury of private stalls. This leads to a host of tact behavioral codes.

"When you go to the bathroom, you never ever pee next to a guy," freshman DiCarlo Washington said. "If the stalls are full, you only have two choices, and that's to go next to another guy or wait... you wait."

Senior Micah Ariel agreed, offering more innovative solutions. "If I really, really had to go and there were no urinals that weren't next to a guy, I would either pee in

the sink or in my pants," he said. According to the ICBE, other taboo bathroom practices include talking in the bathroom.

"Conversation may occur directly prior to urinal use, or directly after it, but while engaged at the urinal, verbal communication should be nil," according to the ICBE.

"Under no circumstances should you start a conversation with someone whom you simply discovered to be in the bathroom when you arrive."

However, if these rules seem too complex to remember, a little luck can ensure a proper bathroom experience. The ICBE states that the "ideal situation" is the presence of only one stall or urinal, in which case the etiquette rules are simple. "If it's empty, pee; if it's not, don't."

Just like someone peeing doesn't want someone else to pee beside them, they also don't want someone to wash their hands beside them.

ICBE website

Compiled by Jennifer Dietrich, Jennifer O'Leary and Lauren Gordin

Reading the writing on the wall

• Insults, class spirit and random advice make for a good read, but a bad mess

By ANDREW HALL
STAFF REPORTER

'03 run dia, '03 run dia, '06 for life.

No, pep rallies have not returned. These battle cries are just some of the words scrawled on the wall of the second floor women's bathroom near room 270.

Whether bathroom graffiti is used to slander the girl who stole your boyfriend or simply give fellow students some words of wisdom between classes, it is hard to ignore.

"It's entertaining and good bathroom reading, and you wanna know who to call to have a good time," said sophomore Emily Seger, who notices an abundance of graffiti in the bathroom by the egress.

Besides being an interesting read, bathroom graffiti

serves as medium for students to share gossip and anonymously insult each other.

Messages can include rhetorical questions with pleas such as "please respond" that encourage student participation.

Even more open-ended was a message urging students to list "the hoos," followed by a number of spaces for student response.

Freshman Sam Miller appreciates the dialogue on bathroom walls. "The conversations are interesting," she said.

However, freshman Helen Morgenstern maintains that graffiti should immediately be painted over.

"They should paint over the graffiti to cover the graphic words of our high school students," she said.

In fact, Carlos Sanchez, a Shaker custodian for five years, said that's the plan. "Every time the security sees the graffiti, they ask us to paint over it," he said.

When graffiti is taken too far, however, it can lead to legal disputes. In December, African-American employees at a Macedonia industrial cleaner factory sued the Royal Chemical Co. over graffiti in a workers' bathroom.

The workers claimed pictures of white men urinating on African-American men depicted as monkeys were left on the bathroom walls and stirred racial hostility in the working environment.

Their lawsuit also claimed a confederate flag and a "whites-only" sign hung in the factory contributed to the unrest of the black workers. Security guard Vic Ferrell said that although security regularly checks for graffiti, they don't usually find much of it.

Nevertheless, a Shakerite poll of 100 students found that 15 percent of the student body had written graffiti on a bathroom wall.

"When we do find graffiti, we take a picture of it so that we are able to see if it connects with other graffiti that we may find later," Ferrell said.

the can

• Student's anxieties of the bathroom include sounds, foul smells and embarrassment

According to the advice website, www.askmen.com, people without serious health problems are immune to any possible diseases that might be lurking in public bathrooms, such as the common cold and bronchitis.

The site recommends a thorough hand wash after any bathroom use, especially a public facility. Washing your hands is the simplest and easiest way to prevent contracting a disease, the site said. Parurensis is the clinical term for fear of urinating in a public bathroom, and is more common in men than in women.

"There is a performance anxiety connected with men peeing in public," Fleming said. "Because they are in front of other people, they wonder, 'what if I can't pee?' and often mentally block themselves from being able to go."

"This inability to go to the bathroom can limit where you can go and work," said Fleming. "If the anxiety

is strong enough, it can play a prominent role in your life and affect many things, such as the type of job that you have."

"There is often a fear of being called gay if you don't stare straight ahead while peeing, or people thinking that you are hanging out in the bathroom just to look at other guys," Fleming said.

"If you are peeing in a urinal, you don't go to the one next to another guy," said sophomore Mike Bowen. "That's just how it is, the code. However, females do have an additional reason to avoid the bathroom."

"With girls, many are afraid to ask because they fear that everyone will assume they are going because they are having their period," she said. "Girls often don't want to risk people making fun of them for that."

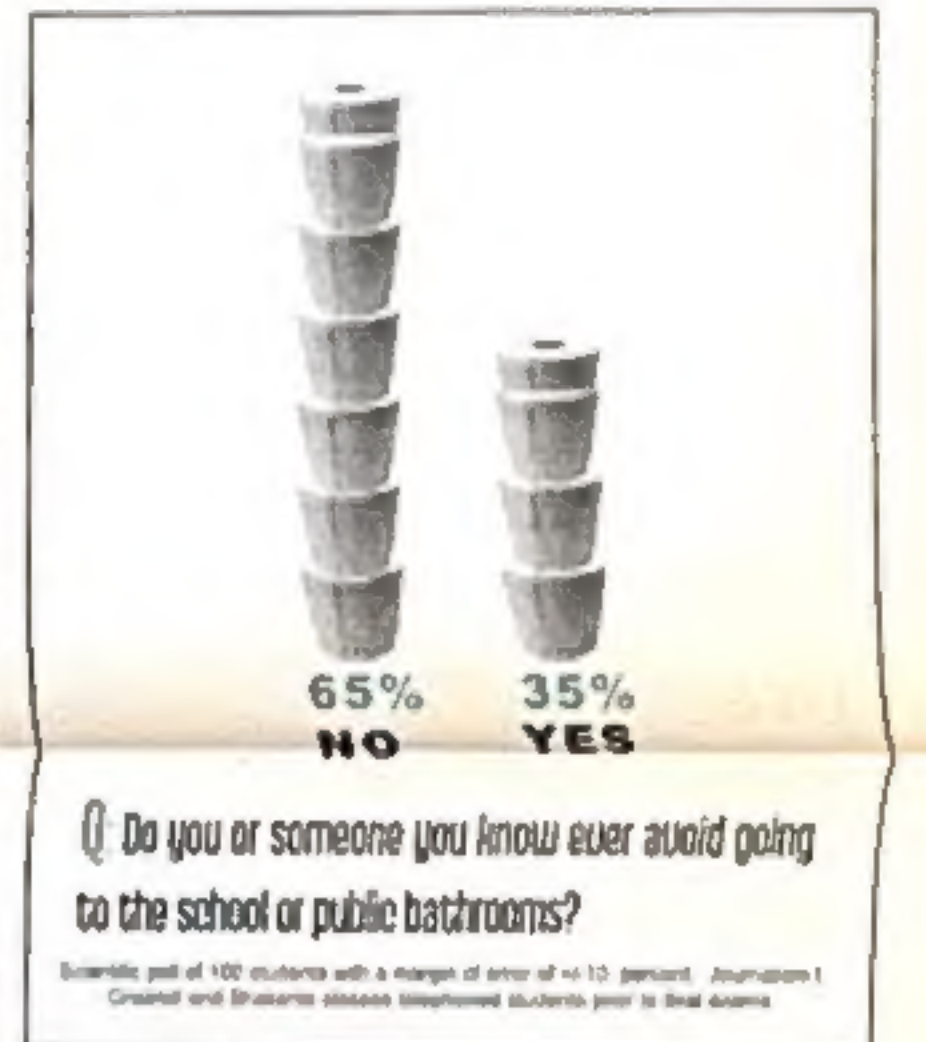
"My policy towards using the bathroom is generally very open,"

Spanish teacher Kimberly Ponce de Leon said. "I ask students to find a time during the day to use the restroom, outside of my classroom. If a student begins to abuse my policy and go to the bathroom daily, then I will begin to deny them the right to go to the bathroom," she said.

Embarrassment to use the restroom can cause students to hold in their bodily functions for an entire school day. "If I have to use the restroom, I wait 'till I get home," Dalton said.

According to school nurse Paula Durkin, this has the potential to cause serious health problems. "What some people do to control having to use the restroom is not drink as much," she said.

"This can lead to bladder infections and other problems simply due to students being afraid to use the restroom, especially to go number two."



A guide to the high school restrooms

• We traveled to the far corners of the school in search of the best and worst bathrooms

By ALICE JENNINGS AND WILL DUDLEY
STAFF REPORTERS

	WORST	BEST	WORST	BEST
Location	Basement near the South Gym	Near Room 221 and stairway	First floor near Room 163	Across from Room 310
# of working stalls/urinals	2	3	4	4
# of working sinks	2	2	2	2
Sink type	Handle Spigot	Automatic	Handle Spigot	Automatic
# of Mirrors	3	4	1	2
Cleanliness (out of 5)	2	4	2	4
Hand dryer	Air	Air	Towels	Air
Smell (out of 5)	4	1	4	1
Comments	I was overwhelmed by the smell of the girls' and boys' locker rooms. It has one broken toilet, limiting your choice to a mere two stalls. But if you don't mind the stink, feel free to visit this rarely occupied restroom. Plus, it's sunny!	Wow, this one's a treat. The automatic sinks are a nice touch. However because this is the nicest restroom, it is busy between class periods and during lunch. Also some students aren't pleased by the absence of paper towels.	There are old wooden doors covered with graffiti on stalls that are falling and dried toilet paper and mold on the ceiling. Not to mention even the mirror is beat up.	This bathroom is extremely clean and normally empty. The best choice for male students with time to climb to the third floor.

SHAKER HANDS SHAKE IT UP!

• Students add creative flair to age-old custom

HANDSHAKE FROM PAGE 1

ture to show that male combatants were not armed and simply wanted to talk.

Over time it has been used as a symbol of peace between nations and opposing parties.

In Santa Clara, California, near San Francisco, Montague Elementary School attempted to have the largest group handshake in the world and be included in the Guinness Book of World Records. They also wanted to promote peace in their community.

Shaker students have given handshakes a whole new twist with complex moves and have made them a representation of friendship.

One such handshake was a five-step move created by sophomores Michael Winlock and Charles Mincek to do when they are together.

"We've been doing it for a long while," Mincek said.

Senior Drew Harrison thinks it is amusing to see these complicated gestures. "I think it looks really funny because some of these guys have really elaborate shakes that are



FRESHMEN SYLVIA ARELLANO and Donald Aaron show off their handshake during sixth period lunch. Secret handshakes have been symbols of friendship between people since medieval times.

like four minutes long and I have no idea how they ever make it to class," Harrison said.

However, some students who witness handshakes do not appreciate them.

"In terms of people in the hall, it's really annoying because they tend to hit people or get in the way. I just think they're idiotic," junior Sara Langhinrichs said.

Secret handshakes have dated

back in history to the Masons, a secret fraternal society. This brotherhood is a religious and educational organization that aims to improve the members' quality of life.

In order to be a part of the Masonic society, members must know certain handshakes. The handshake that is performed when two Masons pass each other is called the "Shibboleth." Specific dialogue goes along with the hand-

shake.

John Youngblood, a secretary at the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, said the purpose of the handshake is "just to be able to identify other members of the group."

Although Shaker students' handshakes are not quite as intense as the Masons', they do represent a bond that is not easy to break. "It represents the unity between me and my friends," Winlock said.

Charles Mincek and Michael Winlock's handshake, one simple step at a time

1 Clap right hands together three times



2 Make a fist and hit above below and straight on; Repeat

3 Clap the palms of the hands together and then the back of the hands

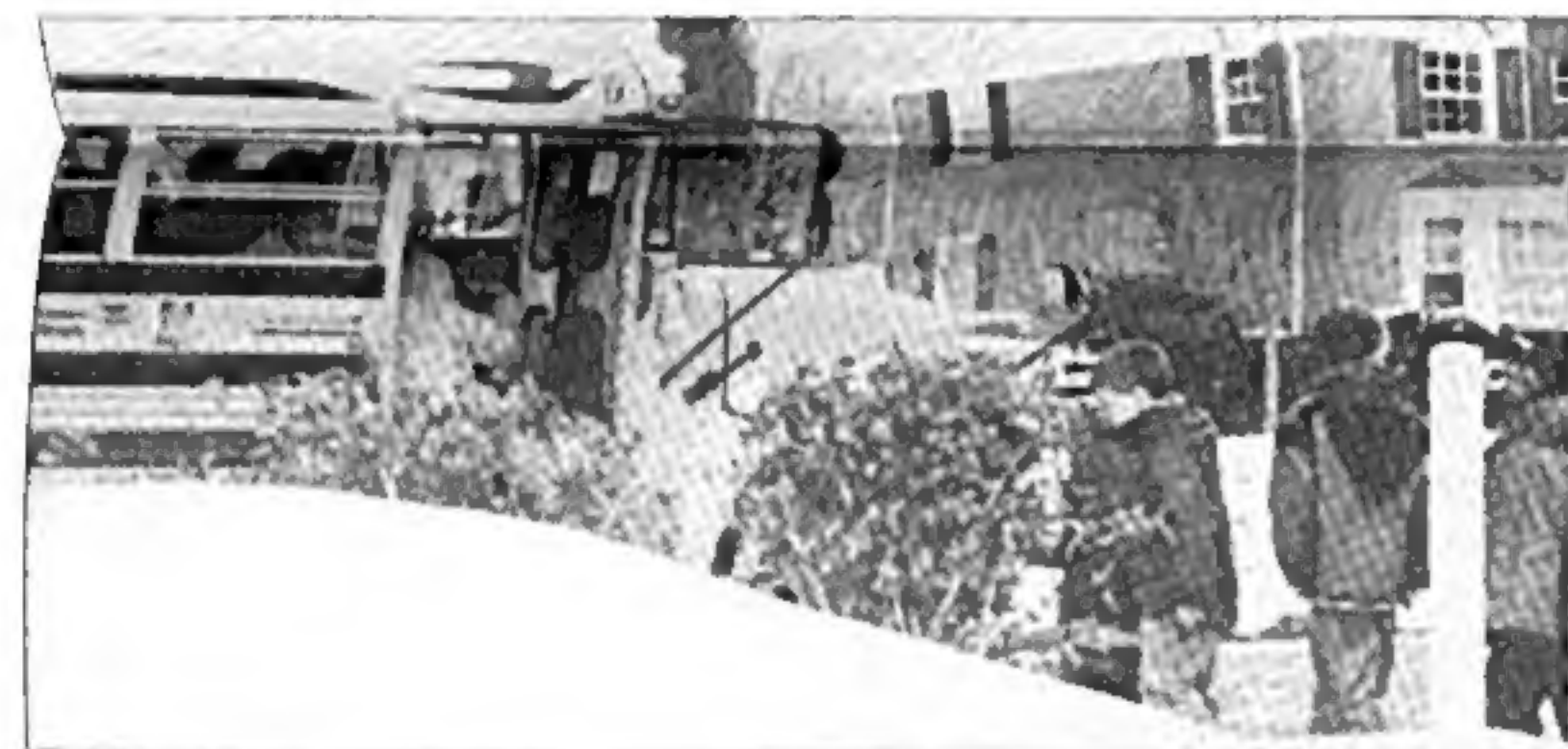


4 Grip right hands together by fingers

5 Release grip and snap fingers



No snow days means walking in a winter wonderland



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS taking the bus to school admire a towering snow mound located near the Rupp field shed. Despite a snowy January and 17 consecutive days of below-freezing temperatures, Shaker did not cancel school.

SNOW FROM PAGE 1

because administrators determined that driving conditions were too hazardous. Record low temperatures of 20 degrees below zero accounted for two snow days in 1994.

Caldwell said the district's compact size makes it relatively easy for snowplows to clear streets in time for school, unlike districts such as Cleveland Municipal Schools, private schools and Catholic schools, which call off school for snow much more frequently than Shaker.

Shaker does give transportation to students who attend religious and independent schools in the area, the furthest of which is Gilmour School in Gates Mills. If Shaker closes, they are still responsible for transporting students to any of the 11 schools. However, Caldwell said, "It would be rare that we would be closed for school and they

wouldn't."

Sophomore Emma Witte, who attended Hawken School last year, said that because Shaker does not bus high school students, there should be more concern for the safety of those who have to walk.

"What doesn't make sense to me is that this is a walking school," Witte said. "Why don't we have more snow days?"

Students often speak conspiratorially about their belief that Shaker administrators consult with neighboring Cleveland Heights and Beachwood and won't call off school unless all three districts take the plunge. Caldwell confirmed that those conversations do indeed occur.

Junior Dominique Sherrill thinks that the conversations between the districts are "nonsense."

"[Beachwood, Shaker and Cleveland Heights] are three different districts, and the weather is going to be different," Sherrill said.

Thousands of students can't be wrong!

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"The information sticks because you make it interesting and fun."

"Driving class is cool."

"I had a lot of fun and learned at the same time!"

"Mr. Overbeke, this class was A-OK!"

"This course was amazing!"

"I looked forward to coming to class!"

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Read The Shakerite

"C'mon, man! I need my nipples!"
12/18/02

Heard in the Halls

"Dude! We gotta get ourselves some furl!"
1/28/03

Overheard and out of context

"You need to take a shower."

"Naw man! I took a bubble bath this morning. It was very nice."
1/10/03

"Hey! Are you sober yet?"
12/16/02

"Man, I don't know where my class is at."
"Look at your schedule."
"I ain't got one."
"That's why you're fat!"
1/28/03

"Quite frankly, I would rather be female."
1/16/03

"If you think about it, they'll scream out if you slash their ankles."
1/21/03

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The Shakerite 7

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8

Foiling his Foes

• Fencing coach William Reith dazzles his competitors and students with class, style and flair

By KIRSTEN WHITEHOUSE
STAFF REPORTER

Have you ever met a coach who defeated the Prince of Monaco and beat three Olympic champions? You have if you know William Reith.

Reith, Shaker's fencing coach, began his fencing career 38 years ago.

"I have always liked watching fencing . . . and Zorro. And it just started from there," said Reith, who met Guy Williams, the real Zorro, later in his life.

Fencing is a rapid, competitive sport that has existed since the times of Ancient Egypt. Unlike team sports, it involves only two individuals dueling it out on an area called the strip, which is approximately 14 meters long and 2 meters wide. Fencers tend to fit into three types of categories.

"I have always liked watching fencing . . . and Zorro. And it just started from there."

William Reith
fencing coach

Those who are more fascinated by technique, blade work and tactics typically practice foil fencing. Viscera fencers, who enjoy the adrenaline rush of a fast, aggressive sword fight, exercise sabre fencing. Epee fencers consider themselves practical, no-nonsense sword fighters.

Reith, who typically competes in epee fencing, has competed in Hungary, Italy, France, Switzerland and South America.

On three different occasions, he beat foreign competitors who at

REITH ROYAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- William Reith has defeated Prince Albert of Monaco 2-0 on two separate occasions.
- Reith recently won a National Veterans Fencing Championship.
- Reith captured a gold medal on the U.S. Pan-American team when he won the deciding match in 1975.

some point received Olympic medals. He even defeated Prince Albert of Monaco.

"I competed against him twice. The first time he was rough and used a different technique. I don't think he was prepared to be defeated," said Reith, who won both competitions 2-0. "I wasn't intimidated either time; I just worked him up and down the strip using the techniques I had learned."

As an experienced fencer, Reith has taken part for the past six years in the Great Lakes Pentathlon, an Olympic sporting event that lets athletes compete in swimming, fencing, running, pistol shooting and stadium jumping. Just last year he was third in the World Veterans' Championship, and this year he won a National Veterans Foil Championship.

However, Reith's fondest memory dates back to 1975 in Mexico City.

"There were four of us on the U.S. Pan-American team," Reith said. "I fenced the last match, and our team won the team epee gold medal. It was such an honor."

Despite these prestigious awards, Reith said his favorite part of fencing has been coaching for more than 30 years.

"I still enjoy competing. But I re-



ally love seeing the kids develop. The sport teaches them such discipline, and so they learn so much about themselves."

Every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, Reith instructs students from Shaker and other schools.

"Bill has taught all of us so much," said freshman Reid Albano, a three-year fencer at Shaker. "He gives us lessons and advice when we really need it. He critiques our fencing skills and has helped all of us improve so much."

Four years ago, Reith helped expand the fencing program to five other Cleveland schools: JFK, John Marshall, East Tech, James Ford Road and Max Havens, where he assisted as a fencing coordinator.

"Bill is a fascinating character. I owe a lot to him for bringing this program to James Ford Roads. He is an amazing coach. He is rough on his students, but it makes them better because of it," said Melissa Roman, the current Roads coach.

Sophomore Jason Pryor, a fencer from Brush High School, summed up the general feeling toward Reith.

"Bill has taught me everything. He teaches us how to win and gives amazing advice," Pryor said.



Astrid Matthews • THE SHAKERITE

SOPHOMORE ANDREW SCHIRALDI deflects the foil of freshman Josh Kramer as the two battle in the fencing room. • Fencing coach William Reith has been competing for 38 years and coaching for 30 years. Reith instructs students from Shaker and the surrounding suburbs every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

THE PUPIL ALWAYS FOLLOWS THE MASTER

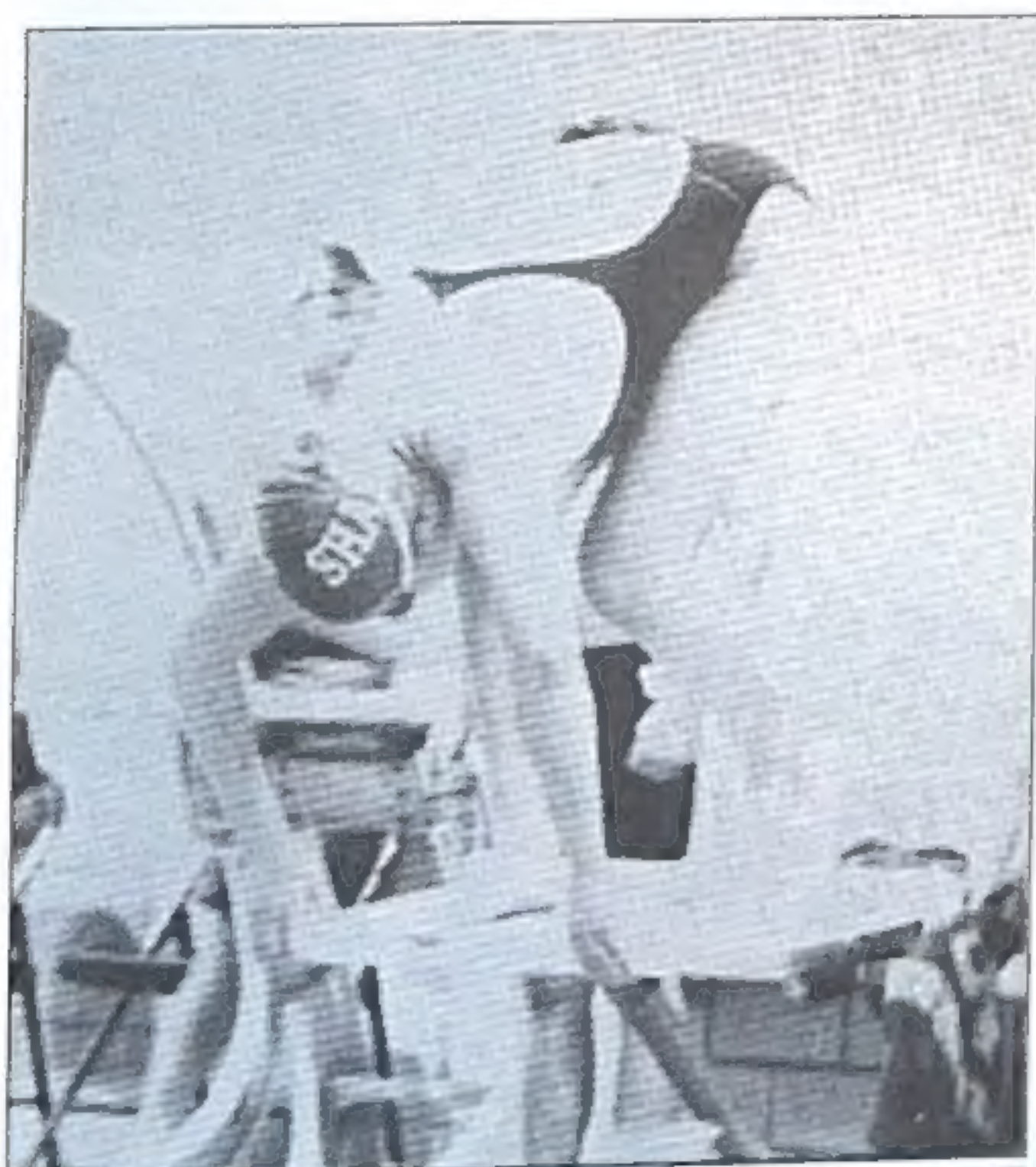
• Freshmen Stephen Cabrera and Reid Albano qualified for the fencing Junior Olympics in Colorado Springs, CO, which will be held on Feb. 14-17. They will compete in the under-17 cadet and the under-20 junior divisions. Cabrera said he is nervous about going. "I'm a little tense. I need to practice more," he said. Albano is too excited to be

worried. "It's pretty cool . . . I can't wait. There are going to be a lot of really good fencers there," he said.

Their coach, William Reith, said Cabrera and Albano are going for the experience of competing as much as anything else.

"They are both on the young end of their divisions," he said.

Katherine Ekberg



JUNIOR ELLIS SCHIEMAN, awaiting the starter's gun, steadies herself on the block during the Raiders' Jan. 3 meet against Strongsville. At this meet, the women's swim team was handed its first dual meet loss since 1992.

Women's swimming sinks for first time in 11 years

By KATHERINE EKEBERG
SPORTS EDITOR

When the women's swim team headed to Strongsville Jan. 3, they were hoping to increase their win streak to 107.

Instead, they lost their first dual meet since 1992.

"We were all disappointed in ourselves and lost a couple more meets after that," senior swimmer Noreen Malone said.

The 106 consecutive wins spanned 10 years and included 11 consecutive LEL championships. The team has now won 17 consecutive LEL championships overall and, in 1995 and 2001 under former Head Coach Ernest Welsch, Shaker became the only public school in the past 21 years to win the Northeast Ohio District Championships.

SINCE 1992 THERE HAVE BEEN

- Two retirements by Michael Jordan
- Three U.S. presidents
- 14 state titles held by Shaker athletes
- 88 issues of The Shakerite
- 106 wins by the women's swim team

Lizzie Burns attributed the loss to less strength on the team this year than in years past. "We lost a lot of depth when everyone graduated," the senior said.

Malone agreed, "I really do think

we just don't have the depth . . . [Head Coach Eric Peterson] is putting the right line-ups in. I think whether or not Welsch was our coach we would have lost a meet this season," Malone said.

Burns feels that the loss actually helped the swimmers. "Everyone came together as a team. We do a lot of cheering now," she said.

"At first it pulled us apart, but the team chemistry and team spirit has gotten stronger," Malone confirmed.

Both are hopeful for the upcoming sectional and district meets. "I think people will drop a lot of time. The relays all went really, really fast at LELs," Malone said.

Burns added her own high expectations for the near future. "At least one of our relays will qualify for states," she said.